AMENDMENTS TO CLAIM

1 (currently amended). A device for operating a high-pressure discharge lamp, said device comprising:

a switched-mode power supply circuit for supplying power to the high-pressure discharge lamp from a supply voltage, the power supply circuit ~~comprising~~ including at least one power switching element;

control means for controlling the ~~at least one power switching element in its~~ switched-on and switched-off states of said power switching element for controlling the power or current supplied to the high-pressure discharge lamp;

wherein the control means are adapted to control the power consumed by the lamp during its steady phase or the current consumed by the lamp during its run-up phase by controlling the on-time (T_{on}) of the switched-on state of the at least one power switching element.

2 (original). A device according to claim 1, wherein the value of the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element is a preset value, the preset value depending on the specifications of the type of discharge lamp used.

3 (original). A device according to claim 1, wherein the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element for a specific discharge lamp type is substantially constant.

4 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, comprising:

input current determining means for determining the input current of the power supply, the input current determining means providing a signal representative of the determined input current;

feedback means through which said signal is fed back to the control means, wherein the control means are adapted to control the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one switching element as a function of said feedback signal.

5 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, comprising

voltage determining means for determining the lamp voltage, the voltage determining means providing a signal representative of the determined lamp voltage,

a feedback means through which said signal is fed back to the control means; wherein the control means are adapted to control the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element as a function of said feedback signal.

6 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, comprising a dim level means for setting a reduced lamp power level, the dim level means providing a signal representative of the dim level of the lamp, wherein the control means are adapted to control the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element as a function of said signal.

7 (previously presented). A device according to claim 5, wherein the control means comprise a feedback controller for controlling the control means.

8 (original). A device according to claim 7, wherein the control means are adapted to provide fast lamp power adjustments and the feedback controller is adapted to provide relatively slow lamp power adjustments.

9 (previously presented). A device according to claim 4, wherein the on-time (T_{on}) is iteratively adapted with a iteration frequency lower than the switching frequency of the switched-mode power supply.

10 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, wherein the switching frequency of the switched-mode power supply is at least 100 kHz.

11 (original). A device according to claim 9, wherein the iteration frequency is 100 Hz or less, preferably about 10 Hz or less.

12 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, wherein use is made of a half or full-bridge power supply and a filter circuit comprising a series inductor (L) and at least one filter capacitor (C) parallel to the lamp.

13 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, wherein the switched-mode power supply comprises a half-bridge or full-bridge commutating forward topology.

14 (previously presented). A device according to claim 1, wherein the switched-mode power supply comprises a down-converter.

15 (original). A method of operating a high-pressure discharge lamp, comprising:

supplying power to the high-pressure discharge lamp from a supply voltage, using at least one power switching element;

controlling the power consumed by the lamp during its steady phase using control means;

wherein said control means control the lamp power during the steady state of the lamp by fixing the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element.

16 (original). A method according to claim 15, comprising presetting the value of the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element depending on the specifications of the type of discharge lamp used.

17 (previously presented). A method according to claim 15, wherein the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element is kept substantially constant.

18 (previously presented). A method according to claim 15, comprising determining the lamp voltage, providing a signal representative of the determined lamp voltage, feeding said signal back to the control means and adapting the on-time (T_{on}) of the at least one power switching element as a function of the determined lamp voltage.